

## Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-03 CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 PA-01

RSC-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /030 W

----- 096853

P 171024Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY DOHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 27

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMZMBASSY TEHRAN 04

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E.O. QQYTWC N/A

TAGS : OTRA, TSPA

SUBJECT : VISIT OF ASTRONAUT COLONEL JAMES IRWIN TO QATAR

REF: KUWAIT 5341, 5340 AND 5343.

1. APPRECIATE INFORMATION IN REFTELS ON IRWIN VISIT.
2. CONFIRM THAT RITTENHOUSE DID NOT RPT NOT CALL AT EMBASSY DURING DOHA VISIT. WE HEARD ABOUT HIS PRESENCE HERE AND ABOUT IRWIN FOR FIRST TIME FROM DEAN OF QATAR UNIVERSITY DR. MUHAMMAD KAZEM, WHO HAD MET WITH RITTENHOUSE. KAZEM WAS SURPRISED THAT WE UNINFORMED ABOUT IRWIN VISIT AND SAID HE HAD ADVISED RITTENHOUSE TO TOUCH BASE WITH EMBASSY. WE HAVE ALSO HEARD BY LETTER ABOUT VISIT FROM DR. FAROUK EL-BAZ, RESEARCH DIRECTOR OF SMITHSONIAN'S NATIONAL AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM, WHO HAS ADVISED US THAT HE WILL BE IN DOHA AT SAME TIME, AND INDICATED HE WILL PARTICIPATE IN IRWIN'S ACTIVITIES. (EL-BAZ VISITED QATAR AS USIS LECTURER LAST SPRING. HE MADE EXCELLENT IMPRESSION, AND WAS INVITED TO RETURN BY GOQ TO LECTURE DURING FIRST TEN DAYS OF JANUARY.)

3. WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE FULL BACKGROUND ON IRWIN VISIT--SPECIFIC-

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ALLY, DOES HE HAVE ANY OFFICIAL USG SPONSORSHIP OR CONNECTION?

WHETHER HE DOES OR NOT, GOQ CLEARLY REGARDS HIM AS AN OFFICIAL PERSONALITY, AND HIS PLAN TO PRESENT PLAQUE OF QATARI FLAG WHICH HE TOOK TO THE MOON TO AMIR HAS OFFICIAL IMPLICATIONS. IT APPEARS THAT "HIGH FLIGHT" IS ORGANIZATION MAKING ARRANGEMENTS--WHAT IS IT AND WHO DOES IT REPRESENT?

4. RE IRWIN'S FUNDAMENTALIST RELIGIOUS ORIENTATION, THIS SHOULD CAUSE NO PROBLEMS IF HE AVOIDS WHAT COULD BE INTERPRETED AS DISPARAGING COMMENTS ABOUT ISLAM; RITTENHOUSE SHOULD BE SO ADVISED.

5. WE SHALL HAVE TO INSERT OURSELVES INTO IRWIN VISIT ONE WAY OR ANOTHER. IT HAS SIGNIFICANT IMAGE VALUE FOR US, WHETHER OR NOT IT IS A USG-SPONSORED OPERATION SINCE IT WILL BE VIEWED AS SUCH. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT WISH TO SPEAK WITH GOQ OFFICIALS CONCERNED WITH VISIT UNTIL WE HAVE INFORMATION REQUESTED ABOVE. PLEASE ADVISE ASAP.  
PAGANELLI

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** VISITS, ASTRONAUTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 DEC 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION NEA  
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**Subject:** : VISIT OF ASTRONAUT COLONEL JAMES IRWIN TO QATAR  
**TAGS:** OTRA, TSPA, US, QA, (IRWIN, JAMES)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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